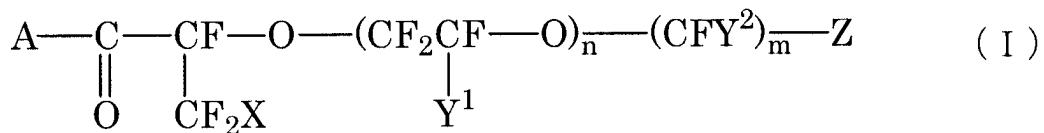


AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

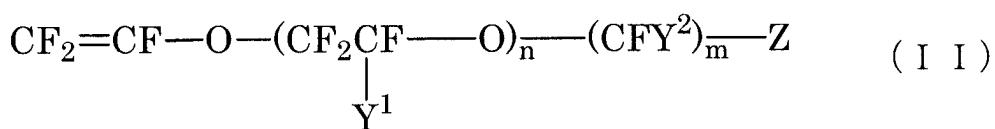
This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether which comprises subjecting a fluorine-containing 2-alkoxypropionic acid derivative represented by the following general formula (I):



(wherein A represents $-\text{OM}^1$ or $-\text{OM}^{2\ 1/2}$, and M^1 represents an alkali metal and M^2 represents an alkaline earth metal; X represents a halogen atom; Y^1 and Y^2 are the same or different and each represents a fluorine atom, a chlorine atom, a perfluoroalkyl group or a fluorochloroalkyl group; n represents an integer of 0 to 3, and n atoms/groups of Y^1 may be the same or different; m represents an integer of 1 to 5, and m atoms/groups of Y^2 may be the same or different; and Z represents a hydrophilic group) to thermal decomposition at a temperature of not lower than 50°C but lower than 170°C in the presence of a coordinating organic solvent comprising one or both of ethyl acetate and tetrahydrofuran to give a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether represented by the following general formula (II):



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(wherein Y¹, Y², Z, n and m are as defined above),

 said coordinating organic solvent having a coordinating property with an ion of said M¹
or an ion of said M² and

 said coordinating organic solvent being in an amount of 10 to 1,000 parts by mass per
100 parts by mass of said fluorine-containing 2-alkoxypropionic acid derivative.

2. (original): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl
ether according to Claim 1,

 wherein the hydrophilic group is -COOM³, -OSO₃M³, -SO₃M³, -O₂PM³, -OP(OM³)₂,
-O₂P(OM³), -OPO(OM³)₂, -PO₂(OM³), -PO(OM³)₂, -COOM⁴_{1/2}, -OSO₃M⁴_{1/2}, -SO₃M⁴_{1/2},
-O₂PM⁴_{1/2}, -OP(OM⁴_{1/2})₂, -O₂P(OM⁴_{1/2}), -OPO(OM⁴_{1/2})₂, -PO₂(OM⁴_{1/2}), -PO(OM⁴_{1/2})₂, or a
substituted ammonio group forming a salt with a conjugate base of an inorganic acid or fatty acid
(its substituents being two or three alkyl groups which are the same or different), wherein M³
represents an alkali metal, a hydrogen atom or NR¹R²R³R⁴ in which R¹, R², R³ and R⁴ are the
same or different and each represents a hydrogen atom or an alkyl group containing 1 to 4 carbon
atoms, and M⁴ represents an alkaline earth metal.

3. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-
containing vinyl ether according to Claim 1,

 wherein the thermal decomposition is carried out at a temperature not lower than 50°C
but lower than 150°C.

4. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-
containing vinyl ether according to Claim 1,

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wherein the coordinating organic solvent is in an amount of 30 to 300 parts by mass per 100 parts by mass of the fluorine-containing 2-alkoxypropionic acid derivative.

5. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 1,

wherein the coordinating organic solvent comprises an aprotic polar organic solvent.

6. (original): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 5,

wherein the aprotic polar organic solvent is an ether solvent, sulfolane, hexamethylphosphoric triamide, acetonitrile, dimethylformamide, dimethyl sulfoxide, ethyl acetate and/or tetramethylurea.

7. (original): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 6,

wherein the ether solvent is a glyme-based solvent, a diethyl ether, a diisopropyl ether, tetrahydrofuran, dioxane, anisole and/or a crown ether.

8. (original): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 7,

wherein the glyme-based solvent is dimethoxyethane, diethoxyethane, monoethylene glycol dimethyl ether, diethylene glycol dimethyl ether, triethylene glycol dimethyl ether, tetraethylene glycol dimethyl ether, diethylene glycol monomethyl ether and/or diethylene glycol monoethyl ether.

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9. (original): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 5, wherein the aprotic polar organic solvent is a glyme-based solvent.

10. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 5,

wherein the aprotic polar organic solvent has a water content not exceeding 250 ppm.

11. (original): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 5,

wherein the aprotic polar organic solvent is diethylene glycol dimethyl ether.

12. (original): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 11,

wherein the diethylene glycol dimethyl ether has a water content not exceeding 250 ppm.

13. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 1,

wherein the fluorine-containing 2-alkoxypropionic acid derivative represented by the general formula (I) has a water content not exceeding 0.1% by mass.

14. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 1,

wherein n is 0 or 1.

15. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 2,

wherein Z is $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}^3$ or $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}^{4\frac{1}{2}}$.

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16. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 2,

wherein Z is $-\text{SO}_3\text{M}^3$, A is $-\text{OM}^1$ or $-\text{OM}^2_{1/2}$, Y^1 is a trifluoromethyl group, Y^2 is a fluorine atom and m is 2.

17. (original): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 16, wherein n is 0.

18. (previously presented): The method for producing a water-soluble fluorine-containing vinyl ether according to Claim 1,

wherein the coordinating organic solvent comprises at least one solvent with a boiling point not higher than a temperature of the thermal decomposition reaction.

19. (canceled.)